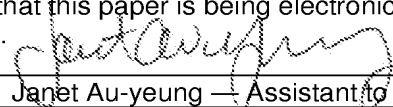


CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being electronically transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on April 5, 2007.



Janet Au-yeung — Assistant to Mark A. Hopkinson, Reg. No. 56,614

PO001US1
MAH/jla

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Simon WALKER
Title: ORNAMENTAL PICKET SPACER FOR A RAILING SYSTEM
Serial No.: 10/576,715
Int'l Filing Date: November 5, 2004
Examiner: unassigned Art Unit: 6311
Attorney Docket No.: PO001US1
Customer No. 52896
Date: April 5, 2007

Mail Stop PCT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 223313-1450

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

- AND -

FORMALITIES REQUIREMENT PURSUANT TO 35 U.S.C. § 371

In response to the Notification of Insufficient Fees dated March 2, 2007, the Applicant requests entry of the following amendment which reduces the number of independent claims in the application to 3.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.